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In the Claims:

Kindly amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) Shed forming device for a weaving machine, comprising two or more sets of hooks (2) which are provided with complementary hooks (2a, 2b), operating in conjunction with a pulley (4) by means of a plurality of pulley cords (15), wherein the complementary hooks (2a, 2b) of one set of hooks (2) are operating in conjunction with one pulley (40), and a number of first pulleys (40a) of one or more sets of hooks (20a) are provided continuously in an upper row (100), and a number of second pulleys (40b) of one or more second sets of hooks (20b) are provided continuously in a lower row (101), wherein each of a first pulley (40a) and a second pulley (40b) are connected with a complementary set of hooks (20a, 20b), wherein both complementary hook sets (20a, 20b) are adjacent, and wherein the first and the second pulleys (40a, 40b) overlap one another, at least partly, when projected on a horizontal plane, and wherein the plurality of pulley cords are disposed in the upper row and in the lower row, and wherein the first pulleys of the upper row have a bottom position always remaining higher than a top position of the second pulleys of the lower row.
2. (Previously presented) Shed forming device for a weaving machine, comprising two or more sets of hooks (2) which are provided with complementary hooks (2a, 2b), operating in conjunction with a pulley (40), wherein the complementary hooks (2a, 2b) of one set of hooks (2) are operating in conjunction with one pulley (40), and a number of first pulleys (40a) of one or more sets of hooks (20a) are provided in an upper row (100), and a number of second pulleys (40b) of one or more second sets of hooks (20b) are provided in a lower row (101), wherein a first pulley (40a) and a second pulley (40b) which each are connected with a complementary set of hooks (20a, 20b), wherein both complementary hook sets (20a, 20b) are adjacent, and

wherein the first and second pulleys (40a, 40b) will overlap one another, at least partly, when projected on a horizontal plane, and

wherein the first pulleys of the upper row have a bottom position always remaining higher than a top position of the second pulleys of the lower row.

3. (Previously presented) Shed forming device for a weaving machine, comprising two or more sets of hooks (2) which are provided with complementary hooks (2a, 2b), operating in conjunction with a pulley (40), wherein the complementary hooks (2a, 2b) of one set of hooks (2) are operating in conjunction with one pulley (40), and a number of first pulleys (40a) of one or more sets of hooks (20a) are provided in an upper row (100), and a number of second pulleys (40b) of one or more second sets of hooks (20b) are provided in a lower row (101), wherein a first pulley (40a) and a second pulley (40b) which each are connected with a complementary set of hooks (20a, 20b), wherein both complementary hook sets (20a, 20b) are adjacent, and

wherein the first and second pulleys (40a, 40b) will overlap one another, at least partly, when projected on a horizontal plane,

wherein, after projection on a horizontal plane, the distance (Y) between a first set of hooks (20a) operating in conjunction with a first pulley (40a) from the upper row (100) and a second adjacent set of hooks (20b) operating in conjunction with a second pulley (40b) from the lower row (101) is shorter than the total of half the width (Y1) of said first pulley (40a) and half the width (Y2) of said second pulley (40b).

4. (Previously presented) Shed forming device for a weaving machine, comprising two or more sets of hooks (2) which are provided with complementary hooks (2a, 2b), operating in conjunction with a pulley (40), wherein the complementary hooks (2a, 2b) of one set of hooks (2) are operating in conjunction with one pulley (40), and a number of first pulleys (40a) of one or more

sets of hooks (20a) are provided in an upper row (100), and a number of second pulleys (40b) of one or more second sets of hooks (20b) are provided in a lower row (101), wherein said first (40a) and second pulley (40b) are shifted widthwise over half a pitch with respect to one another.

5. (Previously presented) Shed forming device according to claim 4, wherein said first (40a) and second pulley (40b) are each provided with one or more pulley cords (5, 15, 16) and in that said adjacent first pulleys (40a) are practically resting against one another and said adjacent second pulleys (40b) are practically resting against one another and are provided with a recess (9), so that the pulley cords (15) connecting the complementary hooks (2a, 2b) of the second sets of hooks (20b) may extend upwards over an upper pulley wheel (4a) of the second lower pulleys (40b), in the recesses (9) of two adjacent first upper pulleys (40a) and the pulley cords (16) being connected to one or more heddles and return springs of a Jacquard weaving machines over a lower pulley wheel (4b) of the first upper pulleys (40a) may extend downwards in the recesses (9) of two adjacent lower pulleys (40b).

6. (Previously Presented) Shed forming device according to claim 1, wherein the device is provided with single lifting elements (3) in order to take along the sets of hooks (20) on selection.

7. (Previously Presented) Shed forming device according to claim 1, wherein the device (1) is used in a two- or more-position open shed Jacquard machine.

8. (Previously Presented) Weaving machine comprising a shed forming device (1) according to claim 1.